

# JOINT BASE BALAD'S EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 1, Issue 1



Photo by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

**Brig. Gen. Mike Lally, commanding general of the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), holds the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC's flag as Command Sgt. Maj. Willie C. Tennant, Sr., the command sergeant major of the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC, unfolds the flag during a transfer of authority ceremony June 20 at Joint Base Balad.**

## 316th transfers authority to 3<sup>d</sup> ESC

by Spc. Michael Behlin

Expeditionary Times Staff Writer

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** – The 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), commanded by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, officially took responsibility for the logistics mission in Iraq from the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), commanded by Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, during a Transfer of Authority ceremony here June 20.

The 3<sup>d</sup> ESC, an active-component unit based out of Fort Knox, Ky., is now the senior logistics headquarters under Multinational Corps-Iraq and is responsible for all logistics operations within the Iraqi theater.

The 3<sup>d</sup> ESC is now in command of five sustainment brigades, one brigade combat team, one transportation battalion, and 12 combat service support battalions.

Couch was particularly appreciative of the hard work and dedication displayed by these subordinates serving with the 316th for the past

year.

"I have never served with a more competent group of commanders. Together we sustained the Corps," Couch said. "You are phenomenal organizations led by great leaders and you never let any Coalition Forces go without logistical support."

In total, the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC will be responsible for and oversee more than 20,000 logistics Soldiers, providing support to United States forces, Coalition partners and Iraqi forces in theater.

While the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC's mission in Iraq will be similar to that of the 316th ESC's, Lally acknowledged the excellent job the 316th did while in theater, and in helping with the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC's train-up to take over command.

"This transition would not have been possible without the outstanding support," Lally said. "Your deliberate and diligent battle handover has allowed us to take the reins at full-speed."

"To the Servicemembers, civilians, and coalition partners of our team: I first want to say

what a privilege it is to serve with you," Lally added. "We have a diverse team and vitally important mission. Each one of you is critical to our success."

Reviewing the ceremony was Lieutenant General Lloyd J. Austin, III, XVIII Airborne and Multi-National Corps-Iraq commander, who acknowledged a job well done by the 316th ESC.

"We recognize the 316th for doing a terrific job in theater. They met and surpassed all expectations placed upon them," Austin said. "Two years ago this unit did not even exist, but went from a unit with just a commander and guidon to a fully functional unit prepared to deploy."

Leading up to this TOA ceremony, the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC endured a rigorous process preparing to enter theater and to conduct this important mission. Since moving to Fort Knox from Germany in June 2007, the unit has been very busy as

See TOA, Pages 8,9



## Mission to Trebil: Part One

A Soldier's account of his travel to Trebil

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## Servicemembers get Stuck

546th give Servicemembers immunizations here

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## G-Eyes

Helping Soldiers everywhere get glasses

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## Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter Week of June 9

**The Provost Marshal Office conducted:** (320) security checks, (nine) traffic stops, issued (eight) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Tickets, registered (142) vehicles on the installation, responded to (eight) minor traffic accidents and (22) common access cards were reported lost.

**Crime Prevention:** Report suspicious activity and crimes immediately to the Provost Marshal Office Law Enforcement Desk. Dial 911 for emergencies and 443-8602 for all others.

**Lost & Found:** The following unclaimed property has been found between 9 - 15 June 08 and turned into the Provost Marshal's office:

**CAC identification cards:** 8  
**Credit/debit cards:** 8  
**Eagle Cash card:** 1  
**Purse:** 1  
**Sunglasses:** 1  
**Photos:** 6  
**Watch:** 1  
**Wallet:** 1  
**Identification badges:** 3  
**Dept of VA card:** 1  
**Digital camera:** 1  
**Journal:** 1  
**Hats:** 4  
**Cell phone:** 1  
**Kevlar helmet:** 1  
**Thumb drive:** 1  
**Dog tags:** 49  
**Key:** 1

If you believe any of the unclaimed items listed above may be yours, please contact Staff Sgt. Joshua Jackson or Staff Sgt. Jonathon Phillips at 443-6105. (jonathon.jackson@blab.afcent.af.mil or joshua.phillips@blab.afcent.af.mil).

By Air Force Tech Sgt. Michael Hodgman

## Letter from the Managing Editor

**Dear Readers,**

Definition: ex•pe•di•tion•ary; adjective; of, relating to, or being an expedition; also : sent on military service abroad <ie: an expeditionary force>

As the old adage goes, "Change is good – we fear change." Well, fear-not readers of "the paper formerly known as the Anaconda Times." As you might have noticed, we've changed the name of the paper not only to reflect the fact we are all expeditionary – regardless of service, but also to reflect the name change here on Joint Base Balad. I want to let you know that even though the name change has been made – more changes are in store with you, the reader, in mind.

This paper's mission is to provide command information to all Servicemembers, partners, and Families of the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) team with a secondary mission of providing a means for all units on Joint Base Balad to disseminate command information to their audiences. Now I know that's a mouthful, but bottom line is that this paper is for you.

Our paper will focus on the great things everyone is doing to accomplish the mission here in Iraq. Our command and partners are working with Coalition Forces to generate an environment in which the Iraqi people feel safer; have greater access to opportunities; feel more empowered; and increasingly come to rely on Iraqi institu-

tions and infrastructure to fulfill their basic needs. Those things don't just happen here on Joint Base Balad – they happen everyday across this country. We're focused on you – and we're going to reach out and find you and tell your story to the rest of the command, your families, and your hometown.

To accomplish all these goals, we do need your help. On July 7th, we'll be asking you to complete a reader survey. Please complete the survey and tell us how we can better serve you. Telling our story of progress in Iraq is important and that is our priority. But the fact is, we know you'd like to have something that's fun to read once in a while. The idea is you pick up a paper at a mess hall somewhere and be able to find an article, puzzle, piece of news, or announcements that are tailored to what YOU THE READER want to see. Maybe you want to read some news from your hometown. Maybe you'd like to see how the market did over the week. Or maybe you'd just like to know how much gas costs in your hometown (ok – that might be depressing). So we'd ask you to participate in the survey and we'll accomplish our goal.

Here at the Expeditionary Times we are excited about our new mission and are looking forward to serving you over the next year. We welcome letters to the editor or even a note to let us know how we are doing. Remember – You make the news!



## EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

3<sup>d</sup> ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Mike Lally

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 1/82nd Brigade Combat Team  
 7th Sustainment Brigade  
 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing  
 20th Engineer Brigade  
 55th Sustainment Brigade  
 402nd Army Field Support Brigade  
 507th Corps Support Group  
 CJSOTF-AP  
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 Task Force 49

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**Mission Statement:** The Expeditionary Times Staff publishes a weekly newspaper with a primary mission of providing command information to all Servicemembers, partners, and Families of the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) team and a secondary mission of providing a means for units on Joint Base Balad to disseminate command information to their audiences.



# Greetings from Sustainer Six

It is a great honor and privilege to join the outstanding units and personnel at Joint Base Balad. Balad is well known for its outstanding quality of life and superb sustainment and distribution support to our Coalition Forces.

This week marked another change within Iraq. The 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) has assumed the mission to provide sustainment and distribution support to MNC-I units across Iraq. This transition would not have been possible without the outstanding support from the 316th ESC. Your deliberate and professional battle handover has allowed us to “take the reins” at full-speed. Thank you for your assistance. We wish all the Soldiers in the 316th ESC a speedy and safe return to their homes and Families. Congratulations on a job well done!

To the Soldiers, Airman, Marines, Sailors, civilians, and Coalition partners of our team – I first want to say what a privilege it is to serve with you. We have a diverse team and vitally important mission. Each one of you is critical to our success. I’d like to discuss with you three priorities in the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC: teamwork, leadership, and progress.

It is important that we train, prepare for missions, and execute as a team. It doesn’t matter if you are an Airman on escort duty in the Joint Visitors Bureau, a truck driver in a sustainment brigade, or a civilian partner working as a translator, we cannot meet our mission if we are not working as a team. I would ask you to reach out to those in a different organization or different uniform in the spirit of partnership; communicate with each other; and share good ideas. Teamwork is the key to success!

Secondly, I want to stress leadership. I want all of our leaders to be multi-skilled, innovative and adaptive; focused on a creating a climate and culture within their units that promotes trust, logistics excellence, and treats everyone with dignity and respect. We are expected to demonstrate inspired leadership in everything we do. Sometimes, you will be asked to do things “out of your comfort zone.” Talk to your subordinates and communicate with them your expectations. Let them know that

truly inspired leadership is doing what is right even when no one is watching, embodying the warrior ethos, upholding honor, and respecting the dignity and human rights of every person. And remember, leaders create the environment and set the conditions so that others can be successful.

Thirdly, we all need to be focused on the improvements and progress that we can and must make toward the goal of making Iraq secure, capable and self-sufficient. That is why we are here.

The 3<sup>d</sup> ESC has a vital role in helping to reach that goal. If we fail in our logistics mission, our fellow Servicemembers will lack the ability to do their part to help Iraq move forward. Additionally, we must help the Iraqi Security Forces improve their capability to effectively sustain their forces. When we successfully accomplish our mission, as I am sure we will, we can leave Iraq knowing we have delivered not only supplies, but also progress to a deserving and proud people. We have an opportunity to generate an irreversible momentum towards sustainable security in Iraq. We will work across the command to create an environment in which the Iraqi people feel safer; have greater access to opportunities; feel more empowered; and increasingly come to rely on Iraqi institutions and their own logistics infrastructure to fulfill their basic needs.

Finally, everyone needs to understand that even though there has been a change in leadership from the Army to the Air Force on Joint Base Balad – there won’t be any changes to quality of life, services, or the sustainment and distribution provided to Coalition Forces – only improvements. Those of us in the Army will work hand-in-hand with our Air Force partners and



Brig. Gen. Mike Lally

with Service members from every branch of our armed forces and many different countries to accomplish our shared goal of securing a peaceful, positive and prosperous future for the people of Iraq. I’m confident that the Soldiers of the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC will lead by example and demonstrate pride and professionalism throughout this deployment. Sustaining the Line!

## WORSHIP SERVICES

**PROTESTANT – TRADITIONAL**

SUNDAY 7:30 A.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
9:30 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
10:30 A.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
11 A.M.	CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)
5:30 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
7:30 P.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL

**PROTESTANT – GOSPEL**

SUNDAY 11 A.M.	MWR EAST BUILDING
NOON	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
12:30 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
7 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL

**PROTESTANT – CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP**

SUNDAY 9 A.M.	MWR EAST BUILDING
10:30 A.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
2 P.M.	CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)
8 P.M.	EDEN CHAPEL
7 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
9:30 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)

**PROTESTANT – LITURGICAL**

SUNDAY 9 A.M.	EPISCOPAL FREEDOM CHAPEL
11 A.M.	LUTHERAN (CHAPEL ANNEX)
3:30 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL

**PROTESTANT --MESSIANIC**

FRIDAY 8:30 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
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**PROTESTANT—SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST**

SATURDAY 9 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
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**PROTESTANT—CHURCH OF CHRIST**

SUNDAY 3:30 P.M.	CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)
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**ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS**

(SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION 30 MIN PRIOR TO MASS)	
SATURDAY 5 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
8 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
SUNDAY 8:30 A.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
11 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
11 A.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
MON-SAT 11:45 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
THURSDAY 11 A.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
MON,WED,FRI 5P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL

**LATTER DAY SAINTS-(LDS)-(MORMON)**

SUNDAY 1 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
3:30P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
7 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)

**JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES**

FRIDAY 6 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
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**ISLAMIC SERVICE**

FRIDAY 12:30 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
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**PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP**

THURSDAY, SATURDAY 7 P.M.	EDEN CHAPEL
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**BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP**

TUESDAY 7 P.M.	EDEN CHAPEL
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**PROTESTANT – SPANISH NON-DENOMINATIONAL**

SATURDAY 7:30 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
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**EASTERN ORTHODOX- DEVINE LITURGY**

SUNDAY 9 A.M.	CHAPEL ANNEX
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*\*Please note, schedule is subject to change.*



# LSAA changes to JBB

by 1st Lt. Lisa Spilinek

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

## JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq

The home of the Air Force's only wing in Iraq and the Army's logistical headquarters for supplies and shipments in the country has been renamed to reflect the dual nature of the base.

Joint Base Balad is the new name for what used to be called Balad Air Base by the Air Force and Logistics Support Area Anacanda by the Army.

The new name went into effect at midnight June 15 to coincide with the transfer of base support functions from the Army to the Air Force under the Base Operating Support Integration initiative, known as BOS-I, said Lt. Col. Pat Ryan, 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group deputy commander.

"Balad is the hub for all Army logistics and is the base of choice for airpower. Being the senior airfield authority, it just makes sense for the Air Force to take the lead here," Ryan said.

With the changeover, the base's support functions, to include food service, lodging, vehicle operations, base upkeep and construction projects, as well as base defense, will now be the responsibility of Air Force units rather than Army units for the more than 30,000 servicemembers, civil servants, contractors and third country nationals who live on the base, said Ryan, who is deployed from Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass.

A transition period for the changeover has been designated to last until Nov. 15. During this time the base support functions will remain under the base's Mayor Cell while Air Force personnel get acquainted with the specific procedures in place. Previously, the mayor cell, which oversees many of those life support functions and the execution of the various government contracts in place here, reported to the Army's 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary); now it will fall under the Air Force's 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, said Lt. Col. Steven Passey, 316 ESC engineer.

"We've been sharing information between the (Air Force) wing staff and squadrons and the mayor cell and ESC staff officers to identify and explain the installation and mayoral functions we had oversight of ranging from (morale, welfare and recreation,) construction projects, operational (programs) and maintenance contracts," said Passey, who is deployed from

Indianapolis.

Both colonels said the goal of the changeover would be a seamless transition of authority from the Army to the Air Force to include the installation command responsibility.

Previously, the installation commander was Army Brig. Gen. Gregory Couch, the outgoing 316 ESC commander; with BOS-I, Air Force Brig. Gen. Burt Field, 332 AEW commander, is now the installation commander.

"We will continue providing the high-quality support and world-class service each Joint Base Balad organization needs for mission accomplishment," Field said.

Brig. Gen. Mike Lally, the commander of the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), which the 316 ESC June 20, stated, "This is a great opportunity for us to partner with the Air Force on a critical initiative. Everyone needs to understand that even though there has been a change in leadership - there won't be any changes to quality of life, services or the sustainment provided to all Coalition Forces - only improvements."

While the base defense function of Joint Base Balad will eventually be conducted by Air Force security forces Airmen, Army Soldiers will continue to be the primary executors of defense measures on the base and in the surrounding area off-base through mid-October when Airmen will arrive to replace them. In the meantime, a new 332nd Expeditionary Force Protection Group will be activated in mid-July with the arrival of the group's leadership.

"As service providers we'll be learning to walk the walk and getting to know our customers, so that after Nov. 15 we'll be ready to meet their needs," Ryan said. "The challenge will be learning the Army [specific] intricacies -- picking up the little differences between the services and the language used."

As the Air Force assumes the mayoral duties of the base, the Army has been on hand to provide guidance along the way.

"Joint isn't just a fancy word from professional military education or on a piece of paper. I've had more meetings with the Army here in the last three weeks than in my entire career. Efficiencies are always gained when we learn from each other," said Ryan. "We'll take the Army processes, adapt them to our own core competencies and make a better product in the end."

## "Let me top off your canteen"

The 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) is now in place on Joint Base Balad and is anxious to excel in our assigned duties. We are more than ready for our mission of providing logistical support to our combat forces, coalition partners, and to our Iraqi brethren in arms. We have trained extensively to ensure we are battle ready and focused on succeeding in this critical task. I am confident that we will distinguish ourselves over the next 15 months as the proud professionals we are. As always, I am counting on the noncommissioned officers of this command to help turn these goals into reality.

During my almost 30 years of military service I have worked with the understanding that we need to do two things in the Army everyday. We need to train our Soldiers and we need to take care of our Soldiers. Everything else is subordinate to those imperatives. Just because we are deployed does not absolve leaders of their responsibility to make sure their Soldiers are conducting physical training regularly and staying proficient in all warrior tasks. We also need to make sure that we take care of Soldiers by doing everything from making sure they drink water to making sure they get promoted when they're ready to checking to see how they're coping with this long deployment. Being away from family and friends and the comforts of home is not easy, but if NCOs do their jobs, all our Soldiers will be empowered to be effective in theirs and be able to maintain a positive attitude until our mission is complete.

With all that in mind, I believe that establishing and maintaining good order and discipline is the cornerstone of our ability to accomplish our mission here safely and effectively. We must practice the fundamentals of military leadership and stewardship daily. They must become automatic, regardless of the situation. When we as leaders fail to set the example and to lead by example, we are guilty of

negligence; for we have just given tacit approval for Soldiers to waver from the things we know they need to do to be successful.

As the Soldiers of the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC transition into our new responsibilities here, let us not forget that we are here to help win this war against criminal elements and that we are intent on achieving peace and prosperity for the law-abiding citizens of Iraq. We cannot and will not fail them, and we must do whatever is required to help them reach the goals of self-governance and economic, social, and political stability noted in our national military strategy.

Our nation is counting on us to succeed in our mission. They are counting on us to be good stewards of their sons and daughters who have answered the call to duty and put boots on the ground. We must not fail them. We must maintain that warrior spirit of positivity in all that we think, say, and do. I trust that each of you will do exactly that.

The 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) is composed of a core group of experienced and dedicated active duty Soldiers from the command's home in Fort Knox, Ky., working side by side with highly professional Active, Reserve and National Guard component Soldiers hailing from places like Seattle, Wash.; Virginia Beach, Va.; Indiana, Ohio, Kansas, Arkansas and many, many different locations in between. Our Families and our communities from all across our great nation are counting on us to excel in our vital mission. Let's resolve to make them proud, to make our nation proud and to leave Iraq when our mission is complete, with the deep sense of pride that can only come from a job well done. Sustaining the Line! I say "Hooah!"



Command Sgt. Maj.  
Willie C. Tennant

## Operation to deter weapons trafficking, caches



Photo by 1st Lt. Jonathan Springer

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** - Staff Sgt. Christopher Demarsico, a member of 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), keeps a close eye on an Iraqi civilian while standing guard in front of the City Council building in Ad Dujayl, Iraq. The artillerymen from the 2-320th FAR began a full-spectrum combat operation June 18, dubbed "Operation Balls DiMaggio," which is aimed at interdicting weapons trafficking, capturing munitions financiers, limiting indirect-fire attacks, and other insurgent activity in the vicinity Joint Base Balad. Over the course of the operation, the "Balls of the Eagle" Battalion will conduct 24-hour combat patrols in an effort to provide a long lasting effect on an ever improving security situation.



# Part One: Mission to Trebil

by Staff Sgt. Bryan Maude

1st Sustainment Bde

**TREBIL, Iraq** – Col. Kevin O’Connell, commander of the 1st Sustainment Brigade, smiled and kind of laughed a bit when he informed me it would take at least a week to get to Trebil; and he wasn’t kidding -seven days to be exact.

Trebil is a small outpost along Iraq’s border with Jordan and I was traveling there to visit the 266th Movement Control Team, a unit that originates from Fort Riley, Kan., and reports to the 1st SB when not deployed.

“I want you to cover each of our units from Riley and the 266th is one of them,” said O’Connell during our meeting. So off I went bags packed and camera in hand.

Traveling from Camp Taji to Al Asad was a piece of cake. But after four days in a hot tent, and multiple failed attempts to get a flight, I decided to look for an alternate means of transportation.

I made a few phone calls and hitched a ride the next day with Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, an Arkansas National Guard unit, attached to the 39th Brigade Combat Team, 507th Corps Support Group, 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), who was escorting trucks from Al Asad to Trebil. The next morning I was happy I did; “At least I’m moving in the right direction,” I thought.

Company D is a highly skilled group of Soldiers brought together in an effort to provide convoy security for Multi-National Forces-West. They are a diverse group of national guardsmen with a large mix of job specialties.

“I’m originally a logistics specialist,” said Staff Sgt. Johnny Woodley, a Little



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

**Capt. Michael Huber (Right), a Virginia Beach, Va, native, and the executive officer for the 266th Movement Control Team, 330th MCB, 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), explains to a Jordanian driver his vehicle position for the day based off the manifest for the mission to Trebil gate.**

Rock, Ark., native, and team leader for Company D. Woodley and his two Soldiers made room in their truck, without complaint, and made me feel right at home during our two day trip to Trebil.

Our first stop was several hundred miles southwest of Al Asad, at a small outpost called Camp Korean Village. Occupied primarily by Marines, with a smattering of Soldiers and civilians, CKV is a transportation stop for convoys traveling along the Main supply Route Mobile.

I inquired about the unusual name and discovered it was named after the Korean workers who built the freeway years ago when Saddam was in power. The old, faded,

green-brick buildings stick out like a sore thumb next to the newly built wood Quonset huts and tents. It’s here where I made my initial contact with members of the 266th MCT.

Capt. Michael Huber, a Virginia Beach, Va, native, and the executive officer for the 266th MCT, attached to the 330th Movement Control Battalion, 316th Expeditionary Command, arrived in theater in April of 2007 and was initially stationed in Camp Taji where they ran the passenger terminal.

“Our initial mission was to support fixed-winged operations into Taji,” said Huber.

Six weeks later, the mission at Taji fell through and as a result, the 266th MCT was split up; the main body went to Trebil and a small element to Al Asad.

“I put him (in Al Asad) mainly because it was just he and I as officers at the time; and it’s a big mission, so I felt he needed to be there,” said Capt. Fredrick Kelo, a Gurney, Ill., native, and the detachment commander for the 266th MCT.

Huber, a political science major from Christopher Newport, a small college located just outside of Fort Eustis, Va., is no stranger to deployments. After college, he was commissioned into the Army and branched transportation, but spent his first few years – and his first deployment to Iraq – with the 1st Infantry Division as an Armor officer.

“This is my second deployment,” said Huber. “And being stationed at Al Asad was good duty.”

While in Al Asad, his team supported the 507th Corps Support Group, managed 70 civilian personnel, to include 20 linguists, and provided critical oversight on the radio frequency identification tags. They pushed approximately 7,000 trucks per month through Al Asad to 13 different destinations throughout MNF-W; places like Faluja, Ramadi, Taq Qadam, Habbaniyah, etc.

“We supported the war fighters with all 10 classes of supplies, less bullets and medical supplies,” said Huber.

Some of the challenges they faced at Al Asad were dealing with the local nationals and all 7,000 trucks coming and going in various states of disarray. They also dealt

See **TREBIL**, Page 10

## Operation Storytime: *How loved ones keep in touch across the world*

by Spc. Michelle Meadows

1st Sustainment Bde

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – From thousands of miles away, Soldiers are able to keep in touch with their loved ones through a program called “Operation Storytime.”

Chaplain (Capt.) Charles Leggett, a Richmond, Va., native, and chaplain for the 168th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, in support of Multi-National Division-Baghdad, first began the project during his last deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II in 2004.

“A suggestion was made to bring a video camera to record letters and send them home via DVD. I had the video camera and (some) software for editing, so it became my project,” said Leggett.

Later in the deployment, numerous children’s books were donated to Leggett – that is when he and a few of his colleagues sat down to brainstorm. Their vote was unanimous. Operation Storytime turned over a new leaf and was restructured to include the recording of “bedtime” stories to families back home.

“This time around, I have a much better camera and professional editing software; I can do even more with the video,” Leggett said.

For almost four years now, Operation Story Time has reached the hearts of over 300 families and continues to keep them in touch during the hardships of long deployments.

## SAFETY CORNER



Courtesy Photo

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** - Ammo discarded into dumpsters and trash bins on Joint Base Balad poses a serious threat to those military and civilians who work at the burn pit and incinerators. There is a process to sort trash before it is burned and just last month there was over 1,800 rounds found. It is impossible to find all of it though in the large volume of trash processed daily. All unused ammo must be turned in to the Ammunition Supply Point. There are also 32 Amnesty Boxes located throughout the base. Be responsible with your ammo and don’t be responsible for the injury or death of a fellow Servicemember or contractor.



# 1st SB makes first battlefield promotions

by Sgt. Jennifer Schweizer

1st Sustainment Bde

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – Originally designed during World War I to help fill the ranks due to immense losses, the battlefield promotion system has been tucked away for some time. The Department of the Army has reactivated this program as a one year pilot program in order to give Soldiers who exemplify extraordinary performance while engaged in combat operations the chance to advance to the next rank without meeting the normal requirements. This program allows one promotion per Soldier, up to the rank of staff sergeant, for those who excel while performing duties in a level above the rank they wear. Recently, the military personnel message system released a bulletin outlining the program; thus making this available to Soldiers deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Sgts. Corey McDowell, a Lumberton, N.C., native, and Jeffery Johanson, a Redding, Calif., native, were the first Soldiers assigned to the 1st Sustainment Brigade to receive their sergeant stripes under this program.

"This is an exciting day for the 1st Sustainment Brigade and for these outstanding Soldiers," said Col. Kevin G. O'Connell, a Clinton, Md., native and commander of the 1st Sust. Bde. "Not only are they the first (Soldiers) within the brigade, ever, to receive this honor, they were promoted on Memorial Day, which is also something great."

McDowell is the non-commissioned officer in charge of the communication and electronics cable install and repair section of Headquarters Platoon, Signal Company, Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sust. Bde., in support of Multi-National Division- Baghdad. He was also hand picked by his first sergeant to be the height and weight control NCO for

the company; in which he developed a program that helped six Soldiers to be successfully removed from the overweight program. In addition, he is certified as a combatives level II instructor and enjoys competing for excellence at various promotion and Soldier of the Month boards. McDowell has won numerous Soldier of the Month boards ranging from company to brigade levels. He also represented the 1st Sust. Bde. at the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Soldier of the Quarter board last March, all while wearing the rank of specialist.

"It is truly an honor to be one of the first (Soldiers) promoted under this program," said McDowell.

Johanson reflected pride in his eyes as he took part in the ceremony beside McDowell. Johanson is a member of the personal security detail to the brigade commander and command sergeant major. Ironically, he did not deploy with the 1st Sust. Bde, and is not an active duty Soldier. With courage and dedication to the Operation Iraqi Freedom mission, Johanson volunteered to stay behind when his California National Guard unit: Alpha Company, 1/143rd Field Artillery, headed home last March.

"Johanson came on board after serving his deployment in a convoy security platoon for the 1/143rd (FA). He volunteered to put his expertise to use as a member of our PSD to the command group," said Sgt. Salvador Ramirez, a Wichita Falls, Texas, native, and command group administrator for the 1st Sust. Bde. "He has been a huge help and certainly earned this."

At the end of the day, Johanson is happy with his decision to extend his tour of duty in Iraq and is even considering another extension after the 1st Sust. Bde. leaves later this year.

"I am honored and truly grateful to be a part of this (day) and to be under such great leadership," said Johanson.



Photo by Sgt. Jennifer Schweizer

**Col. Kevin O'Connell, commander of the 1st Sustainment Brigade, places sergeant stripes on Sgt. Corey McDowell May 26 during the 1st Sust. Bde.'s first battlefield promotion ceremony. McDowell is a member of Headquarters Platoon, Signal Company, Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sust. Bde., and has been working towards this since he enlisted in the Army.**

## 546th sticks it to Soldiers

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Expeditionary Times staff

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** – The 546th Area Support Medical Company has manned the immunization ward of the Phipps Troop Medical Clinic for the past ten months.

Reaching the population of JB Balad and its neighboring bases, the 546th has given over 15,000 immunizations since arriving on the base.

Patients can get Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B shots as well as taking some for rabies and smallpox. Just last year, the clinic gave over 5,000 influenza shots in a three-month period.

1st Lt. Nolan Ellis, the administrative officer in charge of Phipps Clinic, said patients should expect the same level of service they receive at home.

"With the exception of yellow fever, we offer pretty much every shot that (Soldiers) get at home," said Ellis.

The clinic is open in the morning from 8:30 until 11:30 on weekdays and 8:30 until 11 on weekends.

Sgt. Joshua Smith, the acting noncommissioned officer of the clinic, said the anthrax vaccine is the most common shot patients receive, primarily because it is a six-shot series and in heavy demand.

To make sure patients get outstanding service, Smith said the clinic's staff must regularly pay attention to both patients and product.

"We're in a hot environment," said Smith. "Vaccinations like smallpox can el-

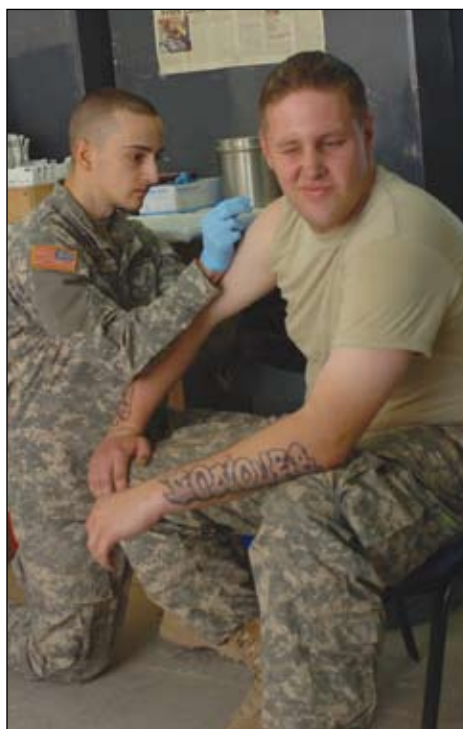


Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

**Pfc. Kyle Knapp, a member of the 602nd Maintenance Company, receives a smallpox vaccination from Sgt. Joshua Smith of the Phipps Immunization Clinic. Smith is a member of the 546th Area Support Medical Company.**

evate your temperature"

They also have to watch for patients who may not be properly hydrated. Smith said the medicine can make the side effects of the vaccinations worsen.

"If someone doesn't appear medically fit," said Smith, "we will ask them to drink water. We will give them a shot but monitor

their behavior before letting them go."

Ellis pointed out staff members have to regularly observe the condition of their storage facilities. Power outages can happen unexpectedly so cold storage is key. If the vaccinations are not kept at a certain temperature, the medicine will be unusable.

Smith said that the job he and his Soldiers do can get boring, so occasionally they will do a couple of things to keep the mood light.

"I had a friend visit the clinic once and we convinced him he needed a rabies shot. We told him he needed to take it in the abdomen."

With the bait taken, Smith decided to play the practical joke to its natural conclusion. Finding the largest syringe available, he filled it up with saline. After instructing his buddy to lay down on a litter, he removed the needle and set up the joke.

"After we laid him down, I showed him the syringe," said Smith "I popped the cap and he closed his eyes. When I (faked sticking) him with the syringe, he just screamed. It cracked us all up."

Practical jokes aside, Smith said it's important to get patients to not be discouraged by having to visit the clinic. Each worker knows that it is their duty to make sure people don't have a difficult time when they enter the facility.

"You don't want it where people dread coming to us," he said. "This job is professional for us but it's personal for the people who come in here."

"We just want people to learn that it's not so bad to get stuck."

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# Indiana NG Soldiers escort convoys under the cover of nightfall

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Expeditionary Times Staff

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** – While everyone else typically sleeps, the Indiana National Guard Soldiers of 1st Brigade, 293rd Infantry Battalion are out on the road making sure supplies and other products get to where they need to go.

Escorting convoys until the wee hours of the morning, these Soldiers ensure KBR and third country national trucks with supplies get to the other bases safely.

Staff Sgt. Gary Feaster, convoy commander and squad leader for 1st platoon, said his Soldiers start their day anywhere between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. each day and typically try and end their day around 6 a.m. or later, depending on the prior evening's mission brief.

"We are on a third shift schedule," Feaster said. "However, the Soldiers have a mandatory (4 p.m.) formation where they are told what is going on that day, as well as the next."

Feaster said that prior to a mission, Soldiers prepare their vehicles, fill the radio frequencies and ensure they are working properly and do everything they can so there is no last minute rushing.

"The day of our mission, we will draw weapons, sensitive items and take care of our personal gear," Feaster said.

The 1-293rd's primary mission is to escort KBR to and

from whichever forward operating bases they need to go to. The Soldiers have escorted convoys to Normandy, Taji, Gabe, Caldwell, Sykes, Baghdad International Airport, Cedar, Speicher, Warhorse and many others.

"We can spend around nine hours on the road to Scania alone, one way," said Feaster, who has been with the unit approximately one year.

Feaster said the unit has been on 62 missions and has used approximately three million gallons of fuel since they arrived late March.

"Coming from a light infantry unit and going mechanized is a change for the Soldiers," Feaster said, "but everyone has adapted rather well."

This being his second deployment, Feaster said his platoon would love to be able to see a little bit of action while they are on a mission one day, but they also know that it's a good sign when everyone comes back and not a single shot was fired.

"I guess that's where the infantry kicks in," he laughed. "Our job is to defend our country, and we are ready to do so."

Feaster said when his unit is not out on a mission, they

are most likely cleaning their weapons, performing preventive maintenance checks and services on their vehicles, going through driver's training, weapons qualification, doing physical fitness or spending some down time trying to connect with home.

"I enjoy working with the unit and hanging out with the guys," Feaster said. "We have a great platoon and our company is one of the top units in the brigade."

While they are out on the road, you won't find the Soldiers of the 1-293rd sleeping or straying away from their mission. These Soldiers keep their eyes on the road and ensure each other's safety.

On a recent escort mis-

sion to Taji, the Soldiers spent nearly four hours on the road to make sure nothing got past them.

"It can be dangerous out there," Feaster said. "You have to be vigilant for anything that may come your way. Our Soldiers are taught to call up anything suspicious."

Though they just arrived in country a few months ago, these Soldiers make sure the supplies and KBR trucks get to their destination safely. Though the nights can be long, they accomplish their mission and look forward to the next.

*"I guess that's where the infantry kicks in. Our job is to defend our country, and we are ready to do so."*

Staff Sgt. Gary Feaster  
1st Brigade, 293rd Infantry Battalion

## Father's Day sees family support on foreign soil

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Expeditionary Times Staff

**AL TAQADDUM AIRBASE, Iraq** – Spc. Michael Hebert works 12-hour days and lives in an environment where monotony is as much a threat to productivity as insurgents. Hebert, a movement transportation specialist for the 383rd Modular Movement Control Team, understands that here in Iraq he won't be driving his own vehicle around, tossing down a drink of his choice, or even putting on his favorite t-shirts. He does, however, have the ability to call upon one of his favorite parts of home: his father, Robert, Jr.

On Father's Day, Michael, 21, took time out of his day to visit his father, who was digging a trench in the housing area for base security. The elder Hebert, 52, works as a heavy equipment operator for KBR, and arrived on Al Taqaddum AB in late May. He took the job specifically to be on the same base as his son, who has been on the base since last August.

After trading some verbal jabs with each other, the two made plans to meet for lunch. Michael said his dad's presence has been a "blessing," taking a lot of stress off both father and son.

"You go from 10 months of calling home to 'Hey, I'm over here right now,'" said Michael.

The two were also in Iraq together in 2006, but at separate bases: Robert at Camp Stryker, Michael at Joint Base Balad. On a few occasions, Michael was able to visit his father by hitching a ride on an over-



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

**Robert Hebert, Jr. hugs his son Michael Hebert and Spc. Trent Hines while visiting with them June 15 at Al Taqaddum, Iraq. Hebert and Hines are movement control specialists with the 383rd Modular Movement Control Team.**

night convoy. On this tour, Robert revealed that the reunion happened not by fate, but through an implied order.

"Mama sent me over here," said Robert with a smile, referring to his wife, Ada. "I'm here to keep an eye on him. When the unit left, she asked me, 'You were there the first time he went. Why not this time?' . . . There's the door."

Michael said he knew that his father would return to Iraq but figured the only tricky part was seeing him. Robert decided that the only assignment he would accept was a job on Al Taqaddum. The slot didn't

come open for many months but Dad knew he would make it over to be with his son.

Robert was also comforted knowing his son was surrounded by people he'd gotten to know personally. Michael's team is based out of Ft. Polk La., an hour and a half drive from the Hebert's home in Orange, Texas. Michael regularly brought Army buddies to the house – "Spc. (Trent) Hines still has fireworks in my closet," Robert recalled – and made time for his father to meet the people in the unit.

"I have met every man and woman in the unit," Robert said. "I've met the captain, took pictures with folks – so I knew everyone in the unit once they left America."

Pfc. Leah Gurbee works with Michael and has met Robert and feels their effort to be together is special.

"It's sweet of him to do that and thinking about it makes me want to cry," Gurbee said of Robert.

Robert also told people that all the members of the 383rd are like family to him.

"He said he won't go home until we go home," Gurbee recalled.

"I'm just an old daddy," Robert continued, "I consider a lot of these Soldiers my kids. I try to make sure that some of them get mailed packages."

Dad, who also served in the Army, said he regularly calls his son, who works an overnight shift. He said he does it to check his mood.

"I know by the tone of his voice whether it's a good day, bad day or if he just trying to make it through the night."

Despite his concerns, Robert remembers he can't get in between his son and the unit. He understands the bond Soldiers get from working alongside each other is one that can be trusted and keeps morale steady.

"These guys do their job, and usually get together as a group afterwards," said Robert. "Most of them know intimate details of each other's lives over here."

Michael agreed that he is his own man and his time in service is a reminder that things are going to be alright.

"He knows to give me space," Michael said. "I'm not living at home drinking Yoo-hoos and taking up space. I've been away from home so I think he understands about me growing up and being responsible."

"Oh, by the way, you need to shave," said Robert, touching under his son's chin before shoulder-bumping him.

Before leaving to return to his job, Robert expressed the family's support of his son's actions.

"My father – his grandfather – spent 32 years in the Army, including some time as one of the first drill sergeants to be introduced in the service," Robert said. "When he saw Michael at (advanced individual training) graduation he cried. He recognized that (Michael) was carrying on what he started."

Robert said the pride he feels for his son is just as strong.

"This is my youngest son; He wears the uniform . . . doing things I can't do, doing things for the country."

"When I call him to stay in touch, I do it for me as much as him."





Photo by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

**Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, commanding general of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), is awarded the Army's Legion of Merit from Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin, commanding general of Multi National Forces – Iraq, during an awards ceremony at Joint Base Balad June 20 prior to the transfer of authority ceremony from the 316th ESC to the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC.**

**TOA, from Page 1**

it cased the color of the 3<sup>d</sup> COSCOM, established an expeditionary sustainment command, built a headquarters, relocated families, received personnel, and trained for deployment.

And even though the mission at hand is challenging, Lally is confident that his unit can answer the call.

“We all need to be focused on the progress that we can and must make toward the goal of making Iraq secure and self-sufficient. That is why we have been sent here,” Lally said. The 3<sup>d</sup> ESC has a vital role in helping to reach that goal. If we fail in our logistics mission, our fellow Servicemembers will lack the ability to do their part to help Iraq move forward. But if we succeed in our mission, as I am sure we will, we can leave Iraq knowing we have delivered not only supplies, but also progress to a deserving and proud people.”



Photo by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

**Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, commanding general of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), holds the 316th flag as Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis, the command sergeant major of the 316th, incases it during a transfer of authority ceremony June 20 at Joint Base Balad.**





Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Brig. Gen. Mike Lally, commanding general of the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Command Sgt. Maj. Willie C. Tennant, the command sergeant major of the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC, salute the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC flag as it replaces the 316th ESC flag outside the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC headquarters building.



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

From left to right: Command Sgt. Major Willie C. Tennant, 3d ESC; Brig. Gen. Mike Lally, 3d ESC; Command Sgt. Major Stacey E. Davis, 316th ESC; and Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, 316th ESC; salute the colors during a transfer of authority ceremony June 20 at the morale, welfare and recreation facility on Joint Base Balad.



# I want you to know about G-Eyes

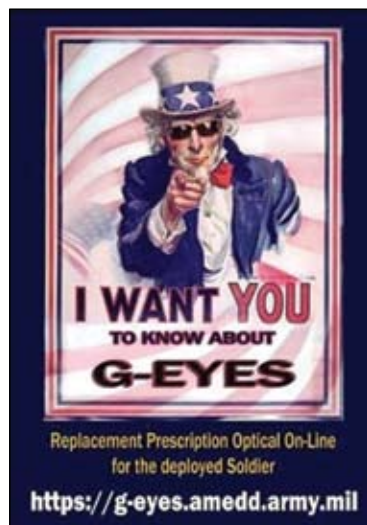
by Sgt. 1st Class Robert White  
56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq**—Imagine you are 300 miles from any large enduring post in Iraq. Your combat eye protection insert is scratched. Your frame of choice is bent and the correct lens keeps popping out. You don't have your prescription, and you really don't want to leave your squad to go on a three-day convoy to Joint Base Balad where you heard you can get new optical items.

Until recently, when eyewear needed to be replaced due to damage or loss, servicemembers had to fly or convoy to a forward operating base with optometry support in order to request replacement frames. Today, thanks to improved technology, ordering new eyewear is just a mouse-click away.

This innovative idea was turned into reality by the team of computer experts that manage the Spectacle Request and Transmittal System. Mr. Thomas Brannon, the SRTS administrator, credits his small team of four individuals for working overtime, tackling bureaucratic red tape, and creating this remarkable system within a few months. Since its creation, G-Eyes has become an important part of optical readiness throughout Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait.

Early Operation Iraqi Freedom rotations found concern over the risk of sending servicemembers via convoy or air simply to get a replacement pair of spectacles.



Previously, this process would have taken the servicemember out of commission for an untold number of days while he or she traveled, and then waited for the eyewear to be delivered. With G-Eyes, servicemembers typically receive their orders back in about 10 days from the time they place the optical order.

Here's how it works: The servicemember goes to the G-Eyes website at <https://g-eyes.amedd.army.mil> and goes through a series of screens to confirm that they are in an authorized location to use the program. After these initial screens, the user will be asked to enter their Social Security Number, and then the system looks for the servicemember's previous optical orders. If eyewear has been ordered through a military optometry clinic within the past two years, those orders will appear

on the screen. The patient may then choose from those previous optical orders to request a replacement. The frame cannot be altered or changed from what has been ordered previously except that a comment can be added to change combat eye protection inserts if a different insert is needed. The user then types in the Army Post Office mailing address and submits the order. The fabrication laboratory takes it from there.

In Iraq, the TF56 Multifunctional Medical Battalion optical fabrication lab is responsible for the fabrication of most of the G-Eyes orders. The orders are received through the lab's SRTS computer system, fabricated, and then mailed via the military postal system straight to the servicemember who placed the request. In some cases, when the theater optical laboratory does not have a unique frame, the laboratory will substitute with a common "frame of choice" item that fits comfortably under sand, wind, and dust goggles. Complex optical orders and bifocals that cannot be made by TF56 are forwarded to Germany for fabrication, thus possibly taking additional time to receive. On average, the TF56 optical lab fabricates over 700 G-Eyes placed orders per month.

The Army's new G-Eyes web-based replacement eyewear system allows all servicemembers, regardless of branch, to order eyewear from the comfort and security of their own base.

# Soldiers prepare for DCLP mission



Photo by Spc. LaQuinta Tindall

**CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq** — **Spc. Kenneth Gilcreast, a West Helena, Ark., native, performs a radio check to ensure lines of communication are open and operational for an upcoming mission here June 1. Gilcreast is a gun-truck driver for Alpha Company, 168th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, in support of Multi-National Division-Baghdad.**

## TREBIL, from Page 4

with their medical needs.

"All our people are combat lifesaver qualified so we either treat them ourselves or send them to the (combat support hospital). However, when we send them to the CASH we have to provide an escort and that takes one of our personnel off the mission," said Huber.

But this little extra touch was necessary, in his opinion, to keep the local nationals happy. He felt that without the local national drivers, the Army wouldn't have the valuable supplies it needs to sustain.

"We try to keep them happy so we can support the fight," said Huber.

Now, after ten months of hard work and long hours at Al Asad, the small band of Soldiers has moved — for a third time — to CKV, where they hope to ride out the remainder of their 15-month tour.

Huber speaks a good bit of Arabic now and enjoys learning not only the language but the culture as well. His team spends much of their time in the staging yard with the Jordanian drivers and sits and chats with them on occasion as well.

"They all have their own little kitchens attached to their trucks — so we drink Chi and eat with them some times," Huber said with a smile.

According to Huber, it's been quiet in this part of Iraq for quite some time.

"I forgot what a mortar sounds like...the Marines have done a good job keeping it quiet," he said.

The following day started early. Huber's crew had all

95 local national trucks lined up, cleared of any last minute maintenance issues, and ready to roll out the gates. We loaded up the security vehicles, made final checks of gear, and pulled out of the local national yard bound for the Jordan border.

About two hours later, our convoy pulled into the Trebil truck yard where I was dropped off by my friends of Company D and picked up by Staff Sgt. Ethan Braud, a New Orleans, native, and a movement control supervisor with the 266th MCT.

"Are you the PAO?" He asked.

"Yes I am," I replied.

He tossed my bags onto the gator and smiled. "Welcome to Trebil," he said before taking off down the dusty road.

After seven days of traveling I was happy to know that I had arrived and was looking forward to meeting the rest of the 266th MCT.

He eliminated unneeded information on the manifest, making it simpler to read and understand.

"I wanted anyone to be able to look at the manifest, read it, and without any help, understand exactly where any vehicle was in the yard regardless if they did this job or not," said Braud.

"Our Soldiers have done an outstanding job at building the manifests," said Kelo. "The accuracy and proficiency of how they do the task is important because this is the first time these trucks enter Iraq and what the Soldiers mark down on the manifest gets passed along to all the other locations in Iraq they travel to."

A second win for the team was reducing fuel pilfering by an estimated \$75 million a year. Shortly after they arrived, it was brought to their attention by the 507th com-

mander that there was a massive amount of fuel disappearing somewhere between the border and Trebil. Kelo and his team set out to discover why.

"Everyone knew it was happening, but no one knew to what degree," said Kelo.

The Soldiers started scrutinizing everything on the trucks and paid close attention to the seals on the tanks. They discovered that the seals were being broken along the route and the drivers would sell up to 500 thousand gallons of fuel, and replace the seal without anyone catching on.

"The Soldiers started paying attention to the seals," said Kelo. "And you couldn't just stop 70 percent of the trucks and turn them around because we needed the fuel to support the mission. So we had to get the outside agencies and the Jordanians involved."

It was discovered that the seal manager in Jordan was taking bribes and selling extra seals to the drivers. People were fired, new safeguards were put into place, and the pilfering was reduced to almost none.

"The drivers know now that if they do things that are illegal they will be removed from the list of drivers who can cross into Iraq so they are very careful to do what's right," said Kelo.

"They don't want to be banned," said Lynch.

To this day the Soldiers are watching for anything suspicious.

As the sun set on my second day in Trebil, and I sat outside my room, I discovered a quiet calm that I found refreshing. And although it might be difficult to get mail, and there's no Taco Bell, Subway, or Green Bean Coffee nearby, I couldn't help but think that this might not be a bad place to be stationed.



# Team Sather fosters relationships with locals

by Air Force Tech Sgt. Amanda Callahan

447th Air Expeditionary Group

**SATHER AIR BASE, Iraq** -- The sounds of children laughing filled the air. A soccer game continued despite the heat and the dust, with parents and friends watching, cheering and joining in to play. This isn't a plush, green soccer field, and these aren't American parents - it's just what happened when neighbors got together to share moments and give small gifts of happiness.

Members of Sather Air Base are working together to help rebuild Iraq, but not militarily or through infrastructure, simply by bridging a cultural and economic gap with local Iraqis.

The Good Neighbor Program at Sather was established about a year ago. Airmen donate everything from toys to shampoo in order to help locals while their community tries to rebuild in the shadows of conflict.

"The program builds a relationship with Iraqi families beyond war," said Master Sgt. Crystal Amos, the program coordinator and liaison between the Iraqis and Team Sather. "It shows we care about their needs on a personal level."

Amos, deployed from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., helped members of the 447th Air Expeditionary Group sort through the many boxes of goods and helped load them up prior to the monthly visit to disseminate to the Iraqis. Boxes of balls, stuffed animals and shoes were carefully arranged before a line of excited children, ranging in ages from about 3- to 13-years-old. Boxes of clothes and hygiene items waited in a bus to be passed out house to house.

"I am thankful for America, and I am happy anytime you

come here" said Major Raheem, an Iraqi father at the location where Airmen passed out belongings.

As a father of twins, he smiled lovingly as he spoke and looked at his two girls who were holding their new stuffed animals.

Staff Sgt. Deric VanBree, 447th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, was one of the 20-plus Airmen who volunteered their time with the Iraqi families.

"It's nice to help these guys," he continued, "and it's great to see the excited kids -- especially with the soccer balls!"

The memory of some of these children brought one Airman back to the area. After participating in the program during his deployment last year, Tech. Sgt. Matthew Land, 447th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, deployed from Robins AFB, Ga., remembered the smiles and the looks on the children's faces and had to participate again.

"I do it to see the kids," he said after he helped a little girl try on a new pair of shoes. "I have three (children), so it makes me feel better while I'm here. Those smiles say they're happy we're here."

While half the group visited the homes, the other half helped the children break in their new soccer balls with a game in the desert dust. While sounds of children laughing and Airmen bantering about who's better filled the air, others were visualizing a deeper meaning to the visit.

"This helps me, as a chaplain, ensure some spiritual wellness is met," said Chaplain (Capt.) David Knight, 447 AEG chaplain, deployed from Nellis AFB, Nev. "When we give of ourselves, we can make a difference in culture; being a whole person, not focused on our own needs, both as military members and as human beings."



Photo by Air Force Tech Sgt. Jeffrey Allen

**Senior Airman Charles Woford of the 447th Air Expeditionary Group chapel stretches to block a shot by a local Iraqi child here June 6. Airman Woford was one of a group of Airmen who delivered toys and gifts donated by Airmen assigned to Sather AB.**

He added that the program is the primary outreach to Iraqi families, and he wanted to participate in the experience to help pass on the opportunity to other members of Team Sather.

Small children hugged new teddy bears, and older boys played games in the dirt, meanwhile, bridges were being built. After loading on the bus to return to Sather, both Americans and Iraqis exchanged "salaams," with the Airmen, looking forward to the next trip to help rebuild a nation, one family at a time.

## Soldier gets present for Army birthday

by Sgt. 1st Class Dave McClain

3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** -- The event was in celebration of the Army's birthday, but it was one Joint Base Balad Soldier who got the present.

Warrant Officer Christopher Essex, a munitions supply specialist with the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), got to see his family via video teleconference June 13 in the base headquarter's

command conference room. Essex was there to read a children's book called "U.S. Army!"

Almost 7,000 miles away, at the other end of the teleconference, were about 15 children brought over to the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC's headquarters building from the child development center at Fort Knox, Ky. The kids read along with Essex in their own copies of the book. With the help of television monitors and satellites, he could see them and they could see him.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David McClain

**Warrant Officer Christopher Essex, a member of the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) reads a U.S. Army children's book via satellite to children from Fort Knox, Ky., Child Development Center for the Army's Birthday**

Essex was asked to read the book to the children because he has children at the Fort Knox CDC and he was surprised at how much he enjoyed himself.

"I didn't think you'd get the kind of feeling you'd get from doing that, just the joy from getting to do that," said Essex who added that that feeling lasted long after the event.

Also in the room were local media from Louisville, Ky., and other cities and towns near to the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC's home at Fort Knox, as well as some members of the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC's Family Readiness Group. And in the midst of all those people were all four of Essex's children, ranging in age from 1 to 13.

"After seeing them, I was pretty excited about it," said Essex. He was especially touched by the reaction of his 1-year-old daughter, Adrianna.

"It was a real good feeling when I saw her pointing at the screen because I knew what she was doing. It was like, 'hey, she hasn't forgotten me yet.'"

Essex has spent much of his children's lives overseas. He arrived here with most of the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC only about two weeks ago, but this is his 3<sup>rd</sup> deployment to Iraq and his 6<sup>th</sup> overseas deployment in his 13-year career. Yet this is the first time he has participated in a video teleconfer-

ence with his family and he's very glad he did.

"It seemed like you were almost there and being able to interact back and forth made you feel like you were there," he said.

The 20-page book he read was written from the perspective of a little boy talking about what he had learned about the Army's history, with a little humor thrown in. At one point, the book's young, main character expresses shock that the Army, at 223 years old, is "older than grandpa!" Essex said he enjoyed seeing the kids' reactions as he was reading to them.

"I didn't think they would laugh and it kind of surprised me."

After reading the book, Essex had a few short moments to interact with his family. Besides his children, his wife was there too.

"She was excited to see me, but at the same time she took it hard," said Essex. "When she saw me on the

screen, it was like I was there again, but when they turned it off, it was like I was gone again."

Essex hopes that feeling won't last too long. He would appreciate another chance to be involved in a video teleconference with his family soon, hopefully before the Army's 224th birthday rolls around anyway.

*"It was a real good feeling when I saw her pointing at the screen because I knew what she was doing."*

Warrant Officer Christopher Essex  
3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)



# 76th IBC T make it happen with IBIZ

by Staff Sgt. Les Newport

76th Infantry Bde Combat Team

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** - Soldiers of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are moving forward with plans to strengthen relations with local businesses near Joint Base Balad.

The brigade is spearheading efforts to provide local opportunities to not only win coalition contracts, but also generate more resources for rebuilding efforts in Iraq.

The settings could not be more different, but the characters are much the same as a team of Indiana National Guard engineers prepared for a mission. Some of the team members have been tackling missions together for nearly thirty years. The National Guard's Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center in south central Indiana has been the beneficiary of much of their hard work.

Now, in the arid and distinctly less forested margins of JB Balad, they are setting their sites on yet another installation improvement, that if successful will have an impact far beyond the security fences and razor wire of the largest installation in northern Iraq.

Lt. Col. John Silva served as the director of public works at Camp Atterbury when he received an email asking him to volunteer for the deployment last year.

"I showed my wife the email that afternoon," said Silva. "She said go."

Silva said his family understands his commitment to the National Guard and serving his country, so his next step was to, in Silva's words, "build the team".

Since Camp Atterbury had been federalized in 2003, many of the engineers that trained there part-time had become full-time support staff. The installation has trained and deployed tens of thousands of reserve component Soldiers as well as Navy and Air Force personnel since then.

"Hands went up when I asked who was interested," he said. But Silva also had to be cautious, knowing that Atterbury had become accustomed to the deep pool of skills the citizens Soldiers had brought from their civilian trade experience.

"I had to ensure I was leaving Col. (Barry) Richmond enough folks behind to support the mobilization mission," said Silva. He submitted a list and after some negotiations, Richmond, the installation commander, signed off.

Silva counted no less than 10 Soldiers with Atterbury ties that now work with him at JB Balad, and can tick off scores of others that work elsewhere in Iraq with the 76th.

Even with little knowledge of what missions his team might face, Silva felt confident that he had the right mix of skill and leadership. After months of training, the 76th deployed, and the team was given a mission that played precisely to their skills: installation support, and more.

The 'more' has come in the form of IBIZ, Iraqi-Based Industrial Zones, an initiative to help Iraqi businesses tap into contracts that support coalition installations throughout Iraq. The effort, a civil support mission, is battleground on which the National Guard thrives according to Silva.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Les Newport

**Master Sgt. William Arnold, an engineer from Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, surveys progress of Indiana National Guard Soldiers and Iraqi workers at the Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone Service Center on the perimeter of Joint Base Balad.**

Chief Warrant Officer Michael Cobb was tasked to manage the first project, a service center to provide regular maintenance for non-tactical vehicles. JB Balad has several hundred vehicles owned by the military.

Cobb, a maintenance foreman at Camp Atterbury, will now steer his team to help transform an abandoned service center near the JB Balad perimeter into an Iraqi operated automotive service center. Cobb said there is a lot of work to be done to get the center up and running.

"We're giving it back to the Iraqi people," said Cobb, "and we're doing it one step at a time."

The first step was to clean up the building and surrounding area. The building had been used for a similar purpose by the former regime, but had fallen into disrepair. There was no electrical power, the roof needed to be replaced and the building and surrounding area had become a dumping ground.

Cobb had Staff Sgt. Ryan Phillips, an Atterbury carpenter, take charge of the building. Phillips manages local Iraqi laborers at JB Balad's carpenter shop and relied heavily on them to get the job done.

"The Iraqis have skills," said Phillips. "They may not do things the same way we do, but they can get the job done."

The Indiana National Guard Soldier said his shop and the Iraqis have developed strong working relationships that are fast growing into friendships, and much of what they accomplish comes from both sides' ability to negotiate and compromise.

Although all Soldiers go through language training prior to deployment and are picking up more language skills along the way, Phillips relies heavily on the many Iraqis who have learned English after years of working with Coalition Forces.

Once the building has been reestablished as an acceptable workplace, a local contractor will be needed to accept the contract. A local sheik whose son holds several certificates and diplomas in the automotive service industry has submitted a bid and is a likely candidate according to Cobb.

Although JB Balad is providing a facility, the Iraqi operator has the responsibility to provide materials, tools and an adequate workforce.

"They'll start off with about six vehicles a day, just preventative maintenance, oil change and lube, safety inspections; but we would like them to be able to do level 30 repairs in the future, replacement of major end items like engines and transmissions," said Cobb.

Cobb said there is also room for growth. In addition to the hundreds of military

owned non-tactical vehicles, there are hundreds of other vehicles operated by contractors and other agencies that operate in and around JB Balad. Cobb said the potential is impressive, and although one small business venture does not a counter-insurgency make, Coalition Forces have expectations.

"The more Iraqis are working here, then we expect there won't be as many attacks," said Cobb. "And we ask... the sheik, to use his influence. And that's to his benefit as well. It'll give him more opportunity."

The next project the 76th will tackle is the establishment of an Iraqi-run gravel yard and a reengineering of the materials delivery facility here. Sgt. 1st Class Richard Webb, a materials manager from Camp Atterbury, holds the same position at JB Balad. Webb recently made a trip to Contingency Operating Base Speicher where IBIZ was implemented nearly a year ago.

"Webb was the material handling guy at Camp Atterbury, so he was the guy for that job," said Silva.

Other IBIZ projects the 76th IBCT team will support include the establishment of a wholesale and retail facility and a vocational education center, building an even stronger connection between Iraq and the engineers from Camp Atterbury.

Silva said "It started with that email," an invitation to be part of something important, not precisely defined, but undoubtedly challenging and rewarding. And so it is not surprising that the email came from Col. Kenneth Newlin, 76th IBCT deputy commander, state operations officer and former installation commander of Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center.

## Emergency life line



Photo by Air Force Senior Airman Julianne Showalter

**Staff Sgt. Phillip Balson, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron infrastructure technician, works on setting up an emergency phone here June 13. The phones are used for establishing personnel accountability during emergency situations. The infrastructure shop will install a total of 124 lines throughout the Air Force housing area during the upcoming days. Balson is deployed from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.**



# MESSAGES FROM HOME

To 1 SGT Sean Dunn (aka Sean-E-Dee), you are a husband, dad, son, brother and a SOLDIER. You are AMAZING and are in our thoughts and prayers EVERY SINGLE DAY! My heart hurts to know you are away from your wife and son, but you are making our world a better place to live in. Come home (Safe) soon, you are MY HERO, Love Kristal, Randy, Morgan, Dad & Mom



SSG Jeremy LaFountain  
We miss you and love you very much!!



Hello Cody Vest from your Cousin Vicky,  
I am now a grandma! I know hard to believe... This is Jessica's baby-Ryleigh Rae Born May 21st 7lbs 6oz  
She is so much fun! I am in love with her :-)  
Missed you in KC with the cousins... Hope to see you soon!  
Hugs and Kisses, Vicki

Happy Birthday 1st Lt. "G. I. Judy" Steele!!!! You're looking Thirty! I love you!!  
SGM Bryan Steele, your proud husband!

We would like to wish SPC David C. Dillard a Happy 32nd Birthday, June 18th. We know its his 2nd birthday over in Iraq and we are all very proud of him and wish him well.  
Debbie and Bob King  
Webb & Brandi Dillard & daughter

Just wanted to say hello, we miss u and we love u Crystal Brown



Michael, wish you were here!  
I just love my man in uniform!  
Love Deb



SFC Michael Mizell- Come home safe.  
Susan



THANKS DADDY! BECAUSE OF YOUR HAZARDOUS DUTY PAY I AM STILL ALIVE AND SMILING! WE LOVE YOU! PONTIOUS, BRUBER, MIKAYLA

### Messages From Home

Show your Soldier how much you miss them by sending messages, pictures, or poems in the ExpeditionaryTimes newspaper.

Contact the 3<sup>rd</sup> ESC Public Affairs Office to print your message.

E-mail [Anaconda.Times@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:Anaconda.Times@iraq.centcom.mil)

EVERY SATURDAY

WEST SIDE MWR

TEXAS HOLD 'EM

1 AND 8 P.M.

FOR MORE INFO:  
[Emily.Megovern@khr.com](mailto:Emily.Megovern@khr.com) or [Jagdeep.Singh@khr.com](mailto:Jagdeep.Singh@khr.com)

## SAFETY ALERT

**DO NOT TAMPER WITH THE WAVES SYSTEM**

**THIS IS AN OFFENCE THAT IS PUNISHABLE UNDER ARTICLE 92 OF THE UCMJ**

**FOR SERVICE OR WORK ORDERS CONTACT: 2ND LT. RACHEL PITONI**

**Pfc. Shawn M. B. Alestra**

## America's warrior

*A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism*

**Full name and rank:** Pfc. Shawn Michael Barnabas Alestra.  
**Job Title:** Movement Transportation Coordinator.  
**Time in service:** 19 months.  
**Age:** 20.  
**Hometown:** Falmouth, Mass.  
**Pastimes (Hobbies):** Physical training and video games.  
**Life-changing event/moment:** The day I joined the Army...quite a culture shock. It was a good thing actually.  
**Lesson Learned:** Keep your mouth shut and your head low.  
**Why I joined the military:** It's a dream I've had since I was 9.  
**If I wasn't in the military I would be:** A landscaper.  
**One thing I would change about the Army:** Better options for chow.

**The one thing I think the Army got right:** The MK 19 40-mil-limeter Grenade Machine gun.  
**What makes a good Soldier?** Discipline, physical training and intelligence.  
**Unusual fact about you:** I'm quite a nerd. I play a lot of weird games.  
**Motivations in life:** My parents.  
**Goals:** Save money, buy a house, get a good job when I'm done with the Army.  
**Hardest part of my job:** Learning all the different systems. We have a lot of passwords and log-ins where I work.  
**Best part of my job:** Th opportunity to serve your country over-seas.



# JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

<b>INDOOR POOL</b> <i>Aqua Training:</i> Tuesday and Thursday- 7:45 p.m.	<i>Soo Bahk Do:</i> 6 p.m. <i>Step Aerobics:</i> Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 5:30 p.m. <i>Wrestling &amp; physical fitness class:</i> Tuesday- 6 p.m. and Saturday- 7 p.m. <i>Swing dance:</i> Sunday- 7:30 p.m. <i>Abs-Aerobics:</i> Tuesday and Thursday- 6 a.m. and 5 p.m.	<i>Dominoes:</i> Friday- 8 p.m. <i>Karaoke:</i> Monday- 8 p.m. <i>Model building:</i> Sunday- 1 p.m. <i>Poetry/ open mic:</i> Sunday- 7:30 p.m. <i>Poker tourney:</i> Sunday- 6 p.m. <i>Salsa dance class:</i> Saturday- 8:30 p.m. <i>Swing dance:</i> Tuesday- 7p.m. <i>Ping pong tourney:</i> Tuesday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.	<i>urday-</i> 8 p.m. <i>Friday nights in Balad:</i> Friday- 8 p.m. <i>Foosball:</i> Tuesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. <i>Green Bean karaoke:</i> Wednesday and Sunday- 8 p.m. <i>Ice Ball Tourney:</i> Thursday- 4 p.m. <i>Ping pong tourney:</i> Tuesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. <i>Salsa dance class:</i> Thursday- 8:30 p.m. <i>Spades, Chess and Dominoes:</i> Friday – 1 p.m. <i>Texas hold ‘em:</i> Saturday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. <i>Game Counsel Tourney:</i> Thursday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.	<i>Aerobics:</i> Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. <i>Body by Midgett Toning Class:</i> Tuesday, Thursday - 7 p.m. <i>Dodge ball Game:</i> Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. <i>Furman’s Martial Arts:</i> Monday, Wednesday, Sunday- 1 p.m. <i>Gaston’s Self-Defense Class:</i> Friday, Saturday- 7 p.m. <i>Open court basketball:</i> Thursday- 7 p.m. <i>Open court soccer:</i> Monday, Wednesday - 7 p.m. <i>Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu:</i> Tuesday, Thursday- 8:30 p.m.
<b>EAST FITNESS CENTER</b> <i>Basketball League:</i> Monday-Friday – 7 p.m. <i>Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu:</i> Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8 p.m. <i>Kyu Kyu Kempo:</i> Sunday- 2 p.m. <i>Edged weapons and sticked fighting combative training:</i> Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 2000-2200 <i>Open court volleyball:</i> Sunday- 6 p.m. <i>Shotokan Karate Do:</i> Monday, Wednesday and Friday- 6 p.m.	<b>EAST RECREATION CENTER</b> <i>8-ball tourney:</i> Monday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m <i>9-ball tournament:</i> Wednesday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. <i>Game Console Tourney:</i> Thursday- 8 p.m. <i>Country Dance Class:</i> Thursday- 7 p.m.	<b>WEST RECREATION CENTER</b> <i>8-ball tourney:</i> Wednesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m <i>9-ball tournament:</i> Monday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. <i>Dungeons &amp; Dragons:</i> Saturday-	<b>WEST FITNESS CENTER</b> <i>3-on-3 basketball tourney:</i> Saturday- 7:30 p.m. <i>6-on-6 volleyball tourney:</i> Friday- 7 p.m.	<b>CIRCUIT GYM</b> <i>Floor hockey:</i> Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8 p.m

## SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

### Movie Times

Wednesday, June 25  
5 p.m. Speed Racer  
8 p.m. Made of Honor  
Thursday, June 26  
5 p.m. Made of Honor  
8 p.m. Incredible Hulk  
Friday, June 27  
2 p.m. What Happens in Vegas  
5 p.m. Iron Man  
8 p.m. Get Smart  
Saturday, June 28  
2 p.m. Iron Man  
5 p.m. Get Smart  
8 p.m. What Happens in Vegas  
Sunday, June 29  
2 p.m. Get Smart  
5 p.m. What Happens in Vegas  
8 p.m. Iron Man  
Monday, June 30  
5 p.m. Iron Man  
8 p.m. Get Smart  
Tuesday, July 1  
5 p.m. Get Smart  
8 p.m. What happens in Vegas

(Schedule is subject to change)

### New Next Week

Wall-E  
The Strangers

### New Movies Get Smart



40-Year-Old Virgin star Steve Carell steps into the telephonic shoes of television’s most beloved bumbling detective in this big-screen adaptation of the hit 1960s-era comedy series created by Mel Brooks. The evil geniuses at KAOS have hatched a diabolical plot to dominate every living man, woman, and child on the planet, and their plot gets under way as they attack the headquarters of the U.S. spy agency Control. As a result of the attack, the identity of every agent working for Control has been compromised. Realizing that the only

way to thwart KAOS’ evil plan is to promote eager but inexperienced Control analyst Maxwell Smart (Carell) to the rank of special agent, the Chief (Alan Arkin) reluctantly teams Smart with Agent 99 (Anne Hathaway) -- a veteran super-spy whose beauty is only surpassed by her lethality. With no real field experience to speak of and nothing but sheer enthusiasm and a handful of fancy spy gadgets to help him accomplish his deadly mission, Maxwell Smart his new partner, Agent 99, will be forced to faces malevolent KAOS head Siegfried (Terence Stamp) and his loyal army of minions in a decisive fight that will determine the fate of the free world. Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, David Koechner, Terry Crews, and Ken Davitian co-star.

### What Happens in Vegas



Two strangers (Cameron Diaz and Ashton Kutcher) find themselves hitched after a wild night of Las Vegas shenanigans in this 20th Century Fox comedy. Jack Fuller (Kutcher) is a single Manhattanite who can never quite commit to a permanent, long-term relationship and repeatedly hears from his lovers that he “isn’t serious boyfriend material.” Employed by his father (Treat Williams) at a local furniture business, Jack spends his workdays goofing off by watching sporting events behind dad’s back. Joy McNally (Diaz) is faring slightly better; a young, polished urbanite, she juggles a demanding job as a trader on the NYSE with a marital engagement to the impressive Mason (Jason Sudeikis), but has modified her entire life and all of her interests to please her intended. Coincident with Mr. Fuller’s decision to fire his son, Mason severs his engagement to Joy; as a result, both

Jack and Joy hit the skids at around the same time and decide to cut their losses by heading out to Vegas. The two accidentally bump into one another when a computer mix-up at the hotel puts them in adjoining rooms; though they begin their acquaintanceship by bickering endlessly, they end up spending a long, drunken night on the town together, and when the sun rises and Joy comes to, she discovers that she unwittingly married Jack in the middle of the night. Alas, just when the two are about to call it quits by filing for divorce after the shortest marriage in history, Jack tosses a coin into a Vegas slot machine and hits a three-million-dollar jackpot -- which naturally pits the newlyweds against one another in an attempt to claim the full share of the money. A conservative local judge, R.D. Whopper (Dennis Miller), then adds the final twist by refusing to grant a divorce until Joy and Jack have given married life a fair shake. In time, the marrieds may just discover that this union isn’t as far off the mark as they initially thought. Dennis Farina, Queen Latifah, and Zach Galifianakis round out the supporting cast.



STUPID STATE LAWS

Ever wonder just how dumb things can be? Does your state have dumb laws? Read on and find out. In the upcoming weeks, the Expeditionary Times will have a series of dumb and stupid laws for each state.

Many of the laws have been verified, but many have been taken from sources which do not include law citations. The laws cited below have been taken from news groups, web sites and city governments. Remember, something had to have happened to get these laws passed. Some laws have been repealed, but not all; some are still on the books.

Kansas

- Pedestrians crossing the highways at night must wear tail lights.
- All places of business must provide a horse water troft in Dodge City.
- No one may wear a bee in their hat.
- The installation of bathtubs in Topeka is prohibited.

Kentucky

- By law in Lexington, anyone who has been drinking is “sober” until he or she “cannot hold onto the ground.”
- A woman may not buy a hat without her husband’s permission.
- All bees entering Kentucky must have a certificate of health, stating the api-ary from which the bees came was free from contagious or infectious disease.

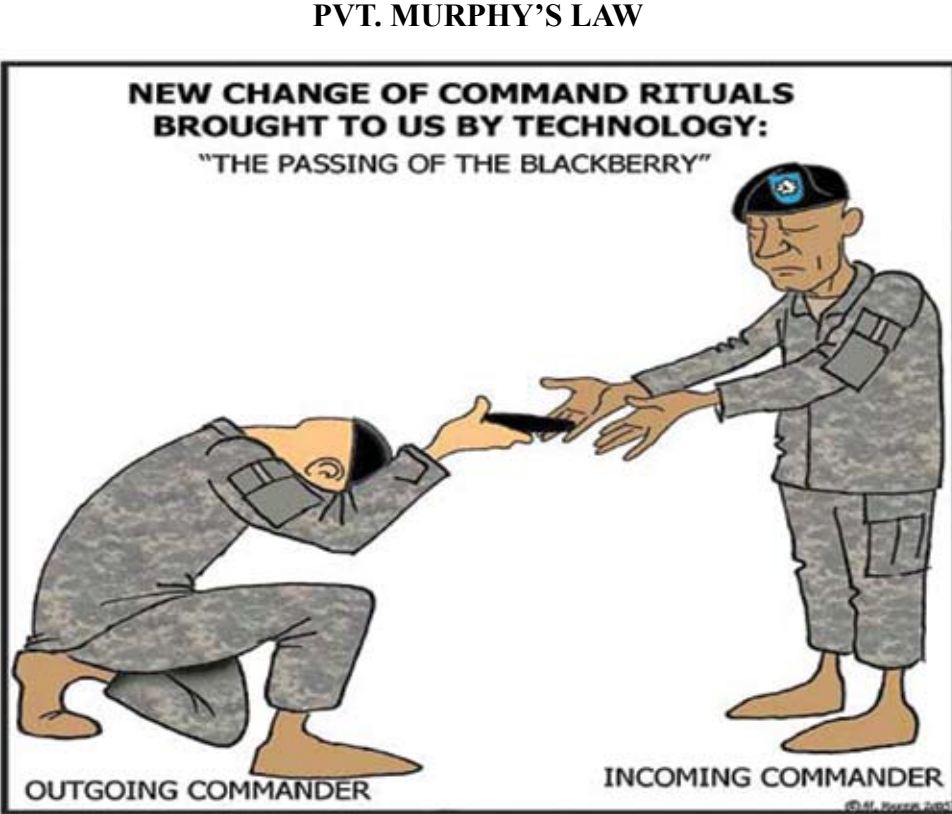






Photo by Staff Sgt. Margaret C. Nelson

# Soldiers face-off Sons of Iraq

by Staff Sgt. Margaret C. Nelson

MND-North

**HAWIJAH, Iraq** — A different battle occurred in northeastern Iraq June 11 -- one of unconventional methods in an unconventional "war."

In this military operation, no body-armor was necessary and no shots were fired. The goal was friendship — and, scoring a few, for the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, in a game of soccer against a team of Sons of Iraq members in Riyadh, Iraq.

This was the second game in a five-game series for Task Force Summit Soldiers in an attempt to

show the populace of the Hawijah district, "the human side of the U.S. Soldier, the non-combatant," said Lt. Col. Christopher Vanek, the commander of the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment.

Although their attempts were valiant and a solitary goal was scored, the Iraqi team showed the Coalition force team that soccer is their national sport, and they dominated throughout the 4-1 victory.

"We've improved since last week," Vanek said. "We are definitely getting better."

Vanek is comparing the efforts of his Soldiers' attempts the previous week in Mahus, where they lost to another team, 6-1.

The 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment commanders' aspiration for the non-lethal approach to his battle space is convincing, when Ali, 14, visiting his uncle from Zaab, a western sub district of Hawijah, said he liked the game because this was the first time he had seen American Soldiers out of uniform on a soccer field trying to play soccer with Iraqis.

"I've never spoken to a U.S. Soldier before, and now I see them playing soccer with us. They are trying to get to know us. I think that is good and they are very nice," he said.

More than 500 locals attended the event.

The Hawijah district has seen a 90 percent decrease in violent attacks against its populace, Security Forces and the CF since December. Although violence has struck home with the loss of three 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment Soldiers here in recent weeks, efforts such as these continue.

"I was torn," Vanek said about the decision to continue with the match. "Are we sending the wrong message?"

But, his concerns were quelled by the Soldiers themselves.

"They decided that the best way to honor the memory of our fallen is to show the enemy that our mission continues. They cannot stop our efforts and those of the citizens of this region to establish stability and peace in this region," Vanek said.

The sacrifices of TF Summit and the gains they have established for the people of this region, in terms of stability and security, are not lost on those attending the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Margaret C. Nelson

**Lt. Col. Christopher Vanek, the commander of the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment gives the game ball to the team captain of the Riyadh Sons of Iraq soccer team. The SOI members beat the TF Summit team, 4-1. Riyadh is a city in the Hawijah District in north-eastern Iraq.**

match as the remnants of a youth center destroyed by al-Qaeda in Iraq seven months earlier, is testament to this once contentious area.

"We did not play so much soccer because it was dangerous and

scored the only goal for TF Summit, the first game was the ice breaker.

"I couldn't believe it when they said we were going to be playing our second game in Riyadh," said Spc. Brian Smith, who experienced his first

firefight there in December. "If you had asked me back then if I would be playing soccer here and on top of that without body-armor, I would have thought you



Photo by Staff Sgt. Margaret C. Nelson

**Spc. Brian Smith, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment scores the solitary goal for his team during their 4-1 loss to the Sons of Iraq team from Riyadh June 11. The Task Force Summit Soldiers were challenging soccer teams throughout the Hawijah district in an attempt to show the human side of the U.S. Soldier.**

*"I've never spoken to a U.S. Soldier before, and now I see them playing soccer with us.*

*They are trying to get to know us. I think that is good and they are very nice."*

Ali  
Zaab

we were afraid," said Mohammad, a 24-year-old Riyadh Sons of Iraq member pulling security at the event said. "The terrorists blew our youth center up so that we could not meet as a community there, and killed many of our people."

"The Americans want to bring us together, help us. And they have brought peace and security back to our city," Mohammad said.

According to the Soldier who

were crazy."

The 20-year-old Soldier on his first tour in Iraq said he was skeptical about security returning to this area until he witnessed firsthand the results of the efforts of the men and women of TF Summit.

"I'm convinced after seeing the changes here since my last visit that we are accomplishing our mission and bringing a positive change to this area," he said.